

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/798,020

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

Applicant(s)

SCHEMPP, OTTO

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed 02/04/11 and a phone interview on 03/07/11.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 17-22,26 and 35-47.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>03/07/11</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with S. Sheldon (Reg. No. 58,732) on 03/07/11.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

a. Abstract:

An abstract filed 03/11/04 has been deleted and a new abstract has been replaced as follow:

--The electrical connector has a dielectric housing, a plurality of signal terminals which are arranged in the housing, at least one ground terminal with a first contact section and a first spring arm section, the first contact section having a first contact and a second contact being mechanically coupled.--

b. Claims:

Claim 17, lines 12-13, "and a plurality of terminals for establishing electrical connections to the mating terminals" have been deleted;

Claim 17, lines 20-21, "at least one first and second contact" have been changed --a first contact and a second contact both configured to engage a corresponding ground terminal of the first connector prior to reach a final mated position--;

Claim 17, line 24, --final-- has been inserted before "mated";

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Claim 36, line 2, "contact" has been changed --contacts--;

Claim 39, line 2, "a first and second leg" have been changed --a first leg and a second leg--;

Claim 39, line 3, "leg" has been changed --legs--;

Claim 43, line 4, "the head section" has been changed --a head section--;

Claim 46, line 5, "a first and second contact point" have been changed-- a first contact point and a second contact point both configured to engage the planar surface of the corresponding terminal from the first set of terminals when being mated together-- ;

Claim 46, line 6, "engages" has been changed --point engaging--;

Claim 46, line 7, "and" has been changed --causes--;

Claim 46, line 7, "is" has been changed --point to be--;

Claim 47, line 2, "point" has been inserted before --is--;

Claim 47, line 3, "point" has been inserted before --is--;

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 17-22, 26 and 35-47 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach or suggest the first contact section having a first contact and a second contact both configured to engage a corresponding ground terminal of the first connector prior to reach a final mated position, one of the first and second contacts is

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not in contact with the corresponding ground terminal when the second connector is in the final mated position (independent claim 17); the second set of terminals each having first and second contact points both configured to engage the planar surface of a corresponding terminal from the first set of terminals when being mated together and the first contact point engaging the planar surface causes the second contact point to be suspended in space above the planar surface (independent claim 46), as set forth in the claimed combination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thanh-Tam T. Le/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2839.
03/07/11.